

OCTOBER 2008

DEAR EVERYBODY!

MOBILE CLINIC: You have done it again! We needed \$50,000 to purchase the Mobile Clinic for the people of North Zambia, and you came through! The heavy-duty truck/clinic will provide badly needed medical treatment by doctors and nurses for people living in remote villages. Our Zambian hero, Hammer Simwinga, is working on the final purchase details.



***DONORS:** It is exciting that one of our most enthusiastic Sister School teachers and her husband, Stephanie and Larry Hart, started clinic funding by donating \$15,000. *The Isdell Foundation* through Pamela and Neville Isdell and daughter Cara Isdell Lee also contributed \$15,000. Big thanks to additional donors Dr. Elizabeth Holland and Gene Brandt, Susan and Bill Darnell, Shana and Andy Laursen, Joseph Alfano and Tom Dorsey, *The Hack Family Foundation*, Mary Jane and Bud O'Connor, *The Cheryl Beth Silverman Memorial Fund* and Dr. Jerry Belkin. As always your generosity makes the difference for people and wildlife.

***STAFF:** We are networking with the *Emory University Global Health Initiative* to provide medical and public health volunteers to help staff the truck. It is also great to know that the mobile clinic does not depend on outside personnel to keep it going. An Mpika based doctor (a surgeon!) and local Registered Nurse (who has worked with our project for years) will staff the clinic in addition to international volunteers. If any of you doctors or nurses want to fund your transport to Mpika and take a turn at participating, just let us know!



***SUPPLIES:** This clinic will bring health care, AIDS education/testing and much more to areas of great need. The first medical supplies have been shipped thanks to Drs. Beth Caldwell and Ken Greenwood who have provided glucose monitoring equipment for the clinic and the Mpika Hospital, as well as stethoscopes, bandages, exam gloves and more. We are always in need of supplies, but shipping is expensive since the USPS eliminated surface shipping outside the US. However, if you are willing to send even a small shipment, it can be powerful. For more shipping information see the *How to Help* section below.

ELEPHANTS: Village health care is important now more than ever, not only for people, but to protect elephants. Healthy, happy villagers are the best defense against commercial poachers. Once again elephant poaching is on the rise. Four African countries have been allowed to sell more than 100 metric tons of stockpiled ivory (most of it from elephants shot illegally), and when this happens, it fuels the international ivory black market. Poachers immediately take up their rifles and begin to shoot elephants. According to recent reports, at least 25,000 elephants are being killed each year, amounting to 7% of the declining population. DNA analysis of ivory can now identify the origin of seized ivory. Substantial amounts of recent smuggled ivory have been identified as coming from Zambia...

BUT NOT FROM NORTH LUANGWA: The work in North Luangwa is a shining light of success. For 22 years the OFWC has supported sustainable agriculture, small industry loans and training, health care, and education for rural Zambians while teaching them the importance of their wildlife. Villagers now have such an improved standard of living that they do not need or want to shoot elephants. And *Frankfurt Zoological Society* and others continue to provide excellent support for law enforcement and wildlife research in NLNP. These efforts and your support fill us with joy.



CONTINUE THE IVORY BAN: The United Nation's *Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species* (CITES) 1989 ban on commercial sale of ivory has been one of the most effective conservation initiatives ever instituted. It must be continued. Please contact the *US Fish and Wildlife Service* or your home country CITES representative, and the CITES Secretariat and ask for a complete ban on any future trade in ivory. Without a market, poachers will not be encouraged to kill elephants. Even the *hope* of a market spurs expanded poaching. This complete ban is critically important to the survival of wild elephants.

- **CITES Secretariat:** 15, Chemin des Anemones -- Case Postale 456, CH-1219 -- Chatelaine – Geneva, Switzerland. PHONE: 4122-979-9139-40, FAX: 4122-797-3417, EMAIL: cites@unep.ch
- **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service** -- 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 432 -- Arlington, Virginia 22203

OPERATING \$ FOR HAMMER: Through your generosity, the OFWC continues supplying operating funds to Hammer, who is assisting more and more villagers in an ever larger area. Hammer has added 337 households to the Agriculture Program and formed 24 new Conservation Groups! Sunflower seed growing, seed oil presses and beekeeping (80 new participants) are in the works in his expanded project area.

***FOREST PROTECTION:** At the villagers' request *Sustainable Forest Management* has been introduced in this new area. Over 10,000 hectares of tribal forest land have been proposed as a Nature Reserve in the Mpumba Chiefdom and another 5,000 hectares in Chiundaponde. Hammer hopes to secure another 12,000 hectares in the Luchembe and Kopa Chiefdoms. Forests are critical to the people and to repopulating wildlife. Large tracts of trees protect the soil and water quality, absorb CO2 and release oxygen, allow forage for bees to make honey, and provide critical habitat to recovering wildlife, including many threatened bird species. We need your continued help to support tree planting and forest management.



Hammer reports that villagers are worried about **Climate Change**. In Ndeba, a farmer said: *Despite being a cold season, the sun is so intensive that you feel it under your feet. We are confused. We are always burning wood for our meals. If smoke is the main reason for climate change, then we have a big problem ahead of us.* Thanks to Hammer, local people are aware of climate change. The best news is that, in spite of the changing conditions, farmers are increasing crop yields by adopting Hammer's improved agriculture techniques.

***VOLUNTEERS:** Rural Africans cannot often volunteer their time to community projects because basic survival is so difficult. However, because of your support, the living standard has improved in the project area so that now villagers volunteer to help others. That was unthinkable just a decade ago. Wow! That says it all – our work has given people the security and freedom to save wildlife AND help one another.

- **Robison Kafwa**, retired ZAWA (wildlife) officer, facilitated community meetings, helped monitor agriculture activities, and compiled Wildlife Club reports.
- **Humphrey Munyenembe**, a former wildlife ranger, collected baseline information on village program progress.
- **Shadreck Muwawa**, a young volunteer in Mukungule, (who was a young student/teacher when we were in NL) mobilized many community members as seed growers. He networked activities linking with other NGOs to avoid overlapping of resources. He has coordinated most of the Conservation Education work in rural schools.
- **Queen Kasonde Simwinga**, Hammer's wife, has taken the role of Rural Health Coordinator, distributing supplies and providing information to the *Traditional Birth Attendants* (first trained by our project in the 1990's).

***JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM:** Hammer's new program will bring children from remote villages to the Junior Ranger Center to learn about local flora and fauna. OFWC supporters Ticia, Walt and Nancy donated five simple laptop computers for the center. The OFWC is compiling and printing basic catalogues of the mammals and birds of Zambia to educate these future environmental stewards. Thanks to Siggi Hosenfeld, Anna and Steve Tolan and the *Zambian National Tourism Board* for their assistance in this project.



KALAHARI RESEARCH & CONSERVATION:

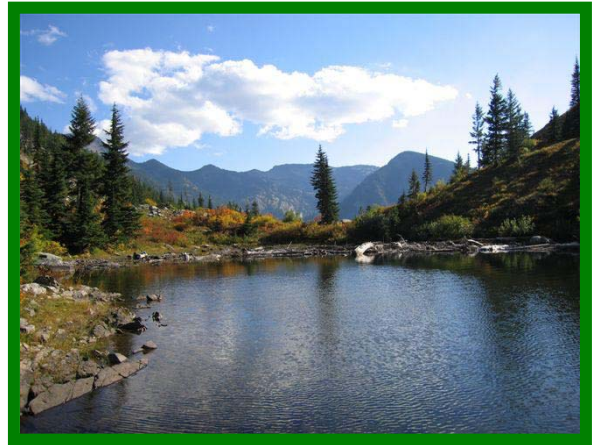
Thirty-four years ago Mark and I were two young researchers studying brown hyenas and lions in the Central Kalahari Desert in Botswana. We soon realized that an airplane was critical in order to follow wildlife in such an immense, remote desert. FZS donated a plane to us. Now all these years later, it has been with great joy and nostalgia that the Owens Foundation has networked with a donor to fund \$26,000 for an airplane to support the continuing Kalahari brown hyena research and conservation work of zoologist Glyn Maude.

LIONS: As funding permits, Glyn and fellow researcher Dr.

Chris Brooks are also working with zebras and other antelope plus key predator species such as leopards, wild dogs and lions - as well as water availability and government wildlife cordon fence issues. Lions are declining throughout Africa. When I think of the Blue Pride sleeping outside our tent, and Muffin and Moffet poking their big heads inside our tent, I am filled with sadness that these magnificent creatures are in such trouble. Fortunately, the Botswana government still has a ban on lion hunting to allow lion numbers to recover.

DIAMOND MINING: You may recall that we fought developers who wanted to mine diamonds in the Kalahari. Sadly, the Kalahari is again seriously threatened by diamond mining in its southern section. If these mines are allowed to open, the future of the fragile habitat, the wildlife, and the San people will be seriously threatened – perhaps forever. Please write and express your appreciation for the Botswana lion hunting ban and your deep concern for the protection of this priceless place against destructive development to: *Ian Khama, President of the Republic of Botswana - Private Bag 001- Gaborone, Botswana.*

NORTHWEST USA: Our work in the West progresses as well. This morning a moose trotted across the wetland that did not even exist five years ago. Recently Mark rode his new (calmer) horse, *Shadow*, into the mountains so high he could see three different mountain ranges. And so remote that grizzly bears and other threatened wildlife can still be free. The wolves we told you about are still surviving in the rugged terrain where they do not interfere with human activities. The never-ending challenge of the wildlife biologist and conservationists is to conserve suitable habitats for wildlife to ensure the future for them in a way that is acceptable to the local human population. That is only possible as long as people are willing to find room in their hearts to share resources with the wild.



We continue to identify key wildlife properties that are for sale and attempt to match them with conservation buyers who will protect the land with conservation easements. We concentrate on properties that help create wildlife migratory corridors that allow animals to move between protected pockets of habitat and insure their genetic diversity. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in conserving wildlife for many generations to come by owning an exquisite tract of wilderness in the rugged Northwest, please let us know.

We need your help to continue these critical conservation programs. We know you face many hard choices in these tough times, but please know that when you choose to support our work, we stretch your donation dollars to the maximum for conservation. Thank you for all you do for the animals and people of our earth.

Cheers,

Debi and Mark

HOW TO HELP

- **NEW EMAIL OR POST ADDRESSES:** Please advise any changes in your contact information as soon as possible. It saves money and makes us 😊!
- **DONATION BY CREDIT CARD:** Can be made at www.owens-foundation.org via **DONATE NOW BUTTON** or by calling Tammy Johnson (678-648-1267). Three percent of your online donation goes to the credit card company for processing fees. You will be asked for the security code on your credit card as an added level of protection for you.
- **FOREIGN CURRENCY DONATIONS:** Must be made by wire transfer, US dollar money order or check - or by credit card (see above for online donations). Thank you for the extra effort!
- **PURCHASES** via OFWC web page link at www.owens-foundation.org to www.amazon.com generate income for our work.
- **RECYCLE USED CELL PHONES:** See our web page link under the **How to Help** section to easily recycle cell phones directly to the recycler at no charge and make \$ for OFWC at the same time.
- **NORTH LUANGWA TOURISM:** If you are planning a trip to Africa, you will have the experience of a lifetime AND help people and save wildlife by choosing North Luangwa. For more information, see our web links under North Luangwa National Park Tourism Info.

LEGACY PLANNING: Touch the future by including the Owens Foundation in your Estate Planning.

Contact Tammy Johnson for more information:

- **Will, Living Trust or other plan:** Name the OFWC as a recipient of a fixed amount or a percent of your estate.
- **Annuity or Life Insurance Policy:** Designate OFWC
- **Retirement Plans:** Designate OFWC as a beneficiary of all or a percentage of your Retirement Plan.

MATCHING DONATIONS:

Some companies match employee & retiree donations to 501(c) (3) nonprofits such as the Owens Foundation. Multiply your giving and empower conservation.

RECOMMEND A FRIEND:

Let us know of anyone who shares our love of people, wild places and wildlife. We never share our database with anyone - ever.

DONATIONS FOR NORTH LUANGWA: Thanks to all who have shipped school, craft & medical supplies to North Luangwa. They are GREATLY needed and appreciated. More are still needed.

IMPORTANT: The US Postal Service has eliminated all reasonably priced shipments outside the US and the only option for shipping to North Luangwa is very expensive AIRMAIL. Please check the cost of shipping before going forward with a project and keep weight in mind! One option is a flat rate box that can carry a lot of quality supplies.

School Supplies: Crayons, pens, pencils, erasers, chalk, wildlife books & magazines (used are fine).

Medical Supplies: Antibiotic bars of soap, latex exam gloves (sterile not required), sterile bandages, antibiotic ointment, gauze, first aid tape, Band-Aids, Ziploc bags and backpacks.

Sewing Supplies: Women's groups can use any fabric, needles, thread and sewing notions.

SHIPPING: Label medical donations as *Hygiene Supplies*, school and craft donations as *Education Supplies*. List on the USPS Customs Form as a *Gift* with a low value. Ship USPO with no insurance. *** **IMPORTANT** *** **Use sturdy boxes**, w/ **2 strips of duct tape in each direction and overlay edges w/ 2-inch plastic tape**. Use USPS "M BAG" for books at a slightly reduced rate. Use USPS site: <http://ircalc.usps.gov/> to calculate postage by weight and size. Check the flat rate box as an option.

SHIP TO: Hammer Simwinga, PO Box 450140, Mpika, Zambia.

THANK YOU!!!

SURFACE SHIPPING ADVOCACY: The loss of reasonable surface postal shipping outside the US (to Zambia) has hit us hard. Please write and/or call your representatives and support cheaper USPS fees for individual and organizational humanitarian aid to remote places like N Luangwa. Go to <http://www.petitiononline.com/zikomo/petition.html> and sign a petition in support of a return of "M" Bag and surface shipping outside the USA. Tell others.

- **For Address Info:** Write - *The Office of the Clerk of the US House of Representatives/US Capitol* -- Room H154 - Washington, DC 20515 - PH: 202-225-7000, or email for info www.clerkweb.houses.gov - or email your representatives directly through the following link: www.house.gov/writerp
- **US President,** The White House - Washington, DC 20500 Email: president@whitehouse.gov

Owens Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc. -- P.O. Box 870530, Stone Mountain, GA 30087 -- www.owens-foundation.org
Mary Dykes at 770-270-0729 marydykes@mindspring.com or Tammy Johnson at 678-648-1267 padman2@comcast.net